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Pre Amended
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THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
Group Art Unit

In re

Patent Application of

Keith Rautenback, et. al.

Serial No. 09/858,426

Filed: May 16, 2001

Examiner:

"METHOD AND STRUCTURE FOR REDUCING
SEARCH TIMES"

I, Kelly R. Warshany, hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the US Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on the date of my signature.

Kelly Warshany
Signature

7/20/2001
Date of Signature

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Please amend the application as set forth below.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims below as follows:

13. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 12, further comprising terminating examination of the entries in the event that the particular entry is not found and all of the entries in the list have been examined.

14. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 12, wherein the accessing and examining steps are omitted when the particular entry is not found. *overwriting? 9*

15. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 12, wherein accessing the particular entry includes reading the entry.

16. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 12, wherein accessing the particular entry includes writing to the entry and the method further comprises imposing a mutex